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Wilda Newman

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IFLA CONFERENCE, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK (1997)
Committee Report on Information Technology
By Wilda B. Newman

The Standing Committee on Information Technology (IT) of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) continues to be one of the most popular and most active groups within the IFLA organization. Every year there is an increasing number of joint meetings with IT, and this benefits not only program planning but the overall conference and contributes to more "intraneting" within the whole of IFLA.

The Standing Committee agenda, besides the usual welcome, adoption of the agenda, approval of the minutes from last year's meetings in Beijing, China, and financial and membership reports, included several items of special note. For example, a new Chairman was elected, Mr. Bruce Royan, Scotland, UK; a new Secretary-Treasurer, Evelyn Moore, USA; and an Information Coordinator, Libby Cooley, New York, USA.

Some program offerings this year included: (1) Protocol Standard: Interlibrary Loan in an Open Networked Environment presented by UDT Core Programme, Section on IT, and Section on Document Delivery and Interlending; (2) Z39.50: Information Retrieval in an Open Network Environment presented by UDT Core Programme and Section on IT; and (4) Introduction to Internet Metadata presented by UDT Core Programme. I managed to attend parts of each of

these open sessions and workshops and found them to be very worthwhile.

A report was given on the Section's updated brochure, which I am handling, and will include the new Scope Statement, Goals, and the Action Plan for 1998-1999. A draft copy was distributed. I have agreed to continue through the completion of this project, including its production into the five IFLA languages (English, French, German, Russian, Spanish), even though I have completed my term with the committee.

IT Project Reports were given on: (1) GUI Icon Standards, a US-Scottish project commissioned by IFLA in 1995. I am the current Project Leader with Bruce Royan, Project Support, and Steven Carr, Project and SCRAN GUI Web Site Support, both from Scotland; and (2) Design and Implementation of a Unified Standard of Cyrillic Information Representation in the Electronic Form, with Yakov Shraiberg and Yuri ****blov, Project Managers, and a Working Group made up of Mikhail Goncharov, Alexander Goncharov, and Tatiana Ershova, Russia. The two projects represent the main impetus for IT focus under the Section Action Plan, 1998-1999.

In the coming year it is expected that we will have more coordination between these two projects (some had already begun this year) and it is hoped, as I continue as Project Leader this

coming year, that I can engage the IFLA Standing Committee on Library Theory and Research in the GUI Project as well. A more thorough report on the GUI Project is planned for a future issue of *Information Outlook* this year.

In the meantime, you might want to check out the GUI Web Site Page at: <http://scran.ac.uk/iconstd> and look at the history of this project and the standard icons, now in four of the five languages. Also, encourage your vendors and libraries and information centers to use these icons. For additional information about IFLA and the GUI, Cyrillic, and other reports see the IFLA Web Site at: <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifla/>.

Wilda Newman is Information Resources Manager for the Administrative Services Department, Johns Hopkins University, Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland.



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